IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

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April/ May '25

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Things Grandma would say

How many do you remember hearing? Did you know the meaning behind the words?

"Knee-high by the Fourth of July" — Describing corn crops that are growing well.
"Bee in your bonnet" — Being extremely upset.
"Fixin' to" — Preparing to do something.
"Skedaddle" — To leave quickly.
"Over yonder" — Over there.
"Gullywasher" — A heavy rainstorm.
"Cattywampus" — Crooked or askew.
"Slicker than snot on a doorknob" — Very slippery.
"Colder than a well digger's rear" — Extremely cold.
"Jeez Louise" — An expression of surprise or frustration.
"Bless your heart" — A sympathetic phrase, but can also be used sarcastically.
"Hankering" — A strong desire or craving.
"All get-out" — Used for emphasis, similar to "very" or "extremely."
"Hoosegow" — Jail.
"Knee-slapper" — A very funny joke.
"Busier than a one-armed paperhanger" — Extremely busy.
"Fit as a fiddle" — In good health.
"Full as a tick" — Extremely full, usually after eating.
"Gussied up" — Dressed up.
"Happy as a clam" — Very happy.
"Heavens to Betsy" — An exclamation of surprise.
"Hold your horses" — Wait or slow down.
"In a coon's age" — A long time.
"Like a bull in a china shop" — Clumsy or careless.
"Raining cats and dogs" — Raining very heavily.
"Scarce as hen's teeth" — Very rare.
"Till the cows come home" — A very long time.
"Two shakes of a lamb's tail" — Very quickly.
"Under the weather" — Feeling ill.
"Worth its weight in gold" — Extremely valuable.
"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" — You can't make something of high quality from poor quality materials.
"Caught between a rock and a hard place" — In a difficult situation.
"Dead as a doornail" — Completely dead or inanimate.
"Don't count your chickens before they hatch" — Don't make plans based on future events that might not happen.
"Like finding a needle in a haystack" — Something extremely hard to find.
"Spitting image" — An exact likeness.
"Throw in the towel" — To give up.
"Tie one on" — To drink a lot, often alcohol.
"Tough as nails" — Very tough or resilient.
"Wet blanket" — A person who ruins others' fun.

continues page four

Get Your 'Kleenex' Ready .... Your Mother

Although you can't hear her voice or see her smile,
Your mother walks beside you as she did before.
She listens to your stories and wipes away your tears.
She wraps her arms around you and understands your fears.
She isn't visible to see with the human eye, but try to talk to her and her spirit will reply.
You'll feel her love in your heart because although she left her body, your souls will never part.

Thanks to Susan Buckingham for suggesting this poem.

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Why Make Your Own Brown Sugar?

1. **It's Effortless** All you need is two ingredients: granulated sugar and molasses. That's it. No fancy equipment, no obscure techniques—just a bowl and a spoon (or a mixer if you're feeling fancy). Combine 1 cup of granulated sugar with 1-2 table spoons of molasses, depending on how dark and rich you like your brown sugar. Mix until fully incorporated, and voilà! You've got brown sugar.
2. **It's Customizable** Store-bought brown sugar comes in two varieties: light and dark. But when you make your own, you can tailor it to your exact preferences. Want a deeper, more caramel-like flavor? Add an extra teaspoon of molasses. Prefer something lighter and milder? Use less. The power is in your hands.
3. **It's Economical** How many times have you reached for brown sugar in your pantry only to find it's hardened into a rock-solid brick? With home-made brown sugar, you can make just what you need, when you need it. No waste, no fuss.
4. **It's Fresh** There's something deeply satisfying about using ingredients you've prepared yourself. Homemade brown sugar is softer, moister, and more aromatic than its store-bought counterpart. It's a small luxury that elevates every thing from your morning oatmeal to your favorite cookie recipe.

Downton Abbey Cooks from Downton Abbey Cooks Substack

with heartfelt sympathy

Since the last issue we learned we lost members members of our community.

~ ~ ~

Joseph 'Joe' Hancock
Jan 30, 2025
Husband of Nancy (2015),
Father of Jeff, Jody & Jamie
Brother of Joyce Brown, Dorothy Reid, Wilf, Faye Dewey & Tim

~ ~ ~

Winston Cross
Feb 5, 2025
long time friend of the George & Grace Simmons family
Husband of Joan, father of Scott, Pamela, Joy, Vicki & Cindy

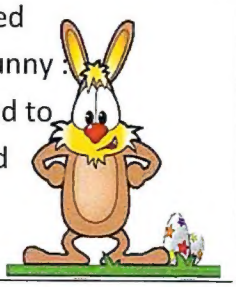
~ ~ ~

"Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts"

EASTER EGGS HUNTS:

Proof your child can find things when they really want to.

Two things I learned from the Easter Bunny :
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day and
Some body parts should be floppy!



A True Friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg, even though he/ she knows that you are slightly cracked.

Susie's Musings

Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strength. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.

We are not given a good or bad life, We are given a life. It is up to us to make it good or bad.

Success hugs you in private. Failure slaps you in the public.

The rule is you have to dance a little bit in the morning before you leave the house because it changes the way you walk out in the world.

Life is too short. Grudges are a waste of perfect happiness. Laugh when you can, apologize when you should and let go of what you can't change.

Acceptance of yourself is far more important that acceptance of others.

Butterflies cannot see their wings. But the rest of the world can. You are beautiful and while you may not see it...we can.

The Statue of Liberty 's crown has 7 rays, and they represent the 7 seas and continents of the world. The 7 rays symbolize the universal concept of liberty and the idea that freedom is a fundamental human right that should be shared by all people, regardless of their geographical location or background.

- The 7 seas: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern, Mediterranean, and Red Sea
- The 7 continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America

The Statue of Liberty's designer, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, intended the 7 rays to symbolize the idea that liberty is a beacon of light that shines out to all parts of the world, guiding people towards freedom and democracy.

It's worth noting that the Statue of Liberty's crown is not just a symbolic element, but also a structural one. The 7 rays are part of the statue's framework, and they help to support the copper sheets that make up the statue's exterior.

On July 4, 1884, France bestowed upon America a symbol of freedom and democracy that would forever change the New York City skyline. The Statue of Liberty, designed by the brilliant Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and constructed by the ingenious Gustave Eiffel, was meticulously shipped across the ocean and reassembled on Bedloe's Island (now Liberty Island).

Two years later, on October 28, 1886, this magnificent copper beauty was officially dedicated in a grand ceremony. A gift from the people of France to the people of America, the Statue of Liberty has become an iconic beacon of hope, freedom, and opportunity, inspiring generations to chase their dreams and strive for a better life.

Mike Torres on Facebook

Ireland's Unluckiest Day

Whit Sunday, the 7th Sunday after Easter is notorious for bad luck, strange superstitions, and a complete avoidance of water. Whit Sunday, also known as Pentecost, is a Christian holiday celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. While it is generally regarded as a joyous occasion in the Christian tradition, in Irish folklore it is a day full of bad luck!

1. **Avoidance of Water:** Water was deemed especially dangerous on this day with children and adolescents not to approach rivers, lakes, or the sea. Entering water any deeper than the ankle dept would result in drowning. Fishing and sailing were also forbidden for similar reasons. In contrast, holy water blessed on Whit Sunday was thought to be particularly powerful and could 'cure' many illnesses.
2. **Birth of Children**: Any child or animal born on this day was known as **cingcíse** and it was predicted they would kill or be killed. Other reports would predict these children or animals were of cross temperaments, dangerous, and wild. Thankfully there were a few remedies such as placing a tiny insect in the hand of a child and letting him/she crush it. Animals born on this day would always be sold as they were said to be "unlucky".
3. **Increase in Accidents**: It was believed that any ventures or new undertakings begun on this day were doomed to fail. This could stem from a general wariness of doing anything significant on major religious holidays meant for rest and worship rather than work.
4. **Sickness:** It is believed if you got sick on this day, you'd be sick for the rest of the year. Sick people were not to be left alone at this time and certainly not left in the dark. The light was very important in guarding the sick against the evil spirits of Whitsuntide, as was fire.
5. **Evil Spirits:** Mischievous spirits and fairies were particularly active on this day. Engaging in important activities during this time could invite bad luck or supernatural interference. Endless amounts of Holy Water were sprinkled in the home and on the farm to counteract the increased activity.

The Schools' Collection compiled in the 1930s provides a great local history resource for anyone interested in researching myths, legends, and history in a very local context. As part of the school's curriculum children aged between 11 and 14 were invited to research stories about over 55 themes, one of which was cures. The children would enlist the help of their parents, grandparents, and, even neighbors to complete their research. Once ready each student presented a copybook of their research to their teacher who compiled a master book for each class. You can search these copybooks at *https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/stories?EditorsPick=true*

These stories provide a rich insight into what life was like at the time and also important genealogical information such as the name of the student, age, and address coupled with names addresses, and occupations of those who helped with the research.

This article copied verbatim from
https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/whit-sunday-unluckiest-day-year?_sc=NDk4ODc2OCMxNjU1MTk%3D&utm_campaign=Whit+Sunday+-+Unluckiest+Day+of+the+Year&utm_medium=email&utm_source=brevo

cingcíse - *Abrupt, seemingly inexplicable changes in mental or physical well-being of both humans and animals were once popularly attributed in many nations to the fairy stroke. Most often the fairy stroke denoted a paralytic seizure; the colloquial English usage of 'stroke' for cerebral haemorrhage derives from this once widespread belief.*

Gramma's phrases .... from page one

"Barking up the wrong tree" — Misunderstanding a situation or problem.
"Chew the fat" — To chat or gossip.
"Doesn't know beans" — Doesn't know anything. We also said it "doesn't know a hill of beans".
"Don't look a gift horse in the mouth" — Don't question the value of a gift.
"Full as a tick" — Very full, often after eating.
"Go over like a lead balloon" — To be poorly received.
"Grinnin' like a possum eatin' a sweet tater" — Looking very pleased or smug.
"Happy as a clam at high tide" — Very happy and content.
"If it ain't broke, don't fix it" — Don't change something that's working well.
"Like a bat out of hell" — Moving very fast.
"Rough as a cob" — Very rough or harsh.
"Slicker than a greased pig" — Very slippery or evasive.
"Snug as a bug in a rug" — Very cozy and comfortable.

We understand
Robert Hancock
isn't feeling well.

Hope you are better soon!

St. Patrick's Breakfast Fundraiser

Egg shells were flying on Sat Mar 15 as I scrambled to keep up with the number of guests arriving. Everyone was hungry at the same time!
There were little green hats with a choc inside at each place setting. And a piece of Irish Soda Bread to take home.

Glenda and Linda did a fabulous job with decorating the community centre for the occasion. Both ladies kept the orders coming into the kitchen. The weather was perfect—didn't start to rain until I was dropping Glenda back at home once clean up had been done. Thanks to Kurt for handling ticket sales and George for keeping the various conversations going.
The photos above are Courtesy of The Haliburton Highlander, taken by Justin Belanger.

The following is copied verbatim from a past issue of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group's newsletters.

SS. No 1 & 8 Glamorgan & Snowdon Irondale. History of the School
From the Log Book in the General Register 1935-44

The history of the school is a very interesting one. The location of the old Irondale school, was on the old Drury farm, where now stands an old house, just the other side of the Maxwell's railway crossing. During those years one of the prominent teachers was the late Daniel Williams, who was a Medical Missionary in East Africa, and who lived on the William's farm about a mile north of the school.

In late years, previous to the building of the present school in 1894, a small school was erected. It was this school that the fathers and mothers of our present pupils attended. The inspector during that time was Dr. Currey from Minden.

The names of the teachers were, Miss Gurtshaw, later Mrs. J. Flood a resident of Irondale, Mr. Curtis, Fenelon Falls and Miss Finney from Lindsey.

Shortly after in 1894 the present school was built by Lawn Rose, a resident of Irondale at that time. The old log school, which stood on the same ground, as our present school was torn down. The attendance during that time was considerably larger than at present. Quite frequently the school was used a s a church. School concerts frequently occurred often under the supervision of the Misses Barr who kept the General Store in Irondale. Mr. James Simmons, Mr. Andy Currey, and Mr. James Flood where the trustees. Peter Barr acted as Secretary. The Inspector during that time was Mr. Colling, from Minden.

Years have passed since then and little changes have occurred excepting the change of teachers. Mr. Phillips was made Public School Inspector in 1911 and remained until 1922 when Mr. Pentland of Fenelon Falls became inspector. The name of the teachers were: Miss E. Sedgewick of Gelert, who is now Mrs. Wilfred Hancock a resident of Irondale. Miss Billingham, Miss Macrea, Miss Brown, Brougham, Miss Cowie Richmond Hill, Miss Woodcock, Coboconk, Mr. McElwain, now in the registrar office in Minden, Miss McCluney, Furnace Falls. From the year 1911 the teachers were as follows—1911 Miss Davis, 1915 Miss MacElwain from Gelert, 1916 Miss Walsh, 1917 Miss Agnes McCluney Furnace Falls, 1918 Miss Leta McGahey Lindsay, 1911 Miss Thursa Ford, White Lake, 1923 Miss A.E. Luxton, and Miss Houston. 1924 Miss M. McKnight Locklin, 1927 Miss M. Deyell, Bailieborough, 1928 Miss Grace Cosh, 1929 Miss Lucy Thompson, 1933 Miss Mary Fairfield, 1934 Miss Mildred Northey, both of Fenelon Falls.

This article will be continued in the next issue of this newsletter.

REMEMBER TO

Book your spot for the Victorian Hat Workshop—April 12

Buy your tickets for the Victorian Tea—April 26

Check out the back page for more opportunities.

Mother's Day Dinner on May 10.

I am always delighted when I find a **pussy willow bush.** I smile as I gently run my hands over the fuzzy buds.
Did you know you can propagate them? Check out this link for info
www.ecofriendlyincome.com/blog/how-to-propagate-pussy-willow

A Polish legend tells the tale
Of tiny kittens, oh so frail.
Along the river's edge they chased.
With butterflies, they played and raced.
They came too close to the river's side,
And, thus, fell in. Their mother cried.
What could she do but weep and moan?
Her babies' fate were yet unknown.
The willows, by the river, knew
Just what it was that they must do.
They swept their graceful branches down
Into the waters, all around.
To reach the kittens was their goal;
A rescue mission, heart and soul.
The kittens grasped the branches tight.
The willows saved them from their plight.
Each springtime since, the story goes,
Willow branches now wear clothes.
Tiny fur like buds are sprung
Where little kittens once had clung.
And that's the legend, so they claim,
How Pussy Willows Got Their Name!
- Laura, 2016

{thanks to Louise! Her FB group, Butterfly Cottage }

International Women's Day—March 8, 2025

In 1875, Grace Annie Lockhart earned her bachelor's degree at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. That same year, several provinces west, Jenny (Jennie) Trout became a Canadian doctor.

While this may not seem unusual today, it was of considerable note 150 years ago: Lockhart and Dr. Trout were the first women in Canada to be granted these educational opportunities, so long afforded to their male counterparts. Their remarkable pioneership has been followed in the decades since as women in Canada continue to achieve incredible impacts despite the obstacles placed in front of them.

Our very own female trailblazer —
In December 1939, Dr. Agnes Jamieson took a position that would prove to suit her perfectly. She joined the medical practice of Dr. Crowe in Minden, Ont., but was soon on her own as Crowe left to join the war effort.
At the same time, Dr. Jamieson became the medical officer of health for the Haliburton District. This was no small accomplishment for a female doctor, a rarity at the time. In fact, during her university studies, she and all women in the medical school, were expected to carry marks 10 per cent higher than their male classmates.
In 1950, Dr. Agnes Jamieson set another milestone as she became the first female coroner in Ontario. Coroners investigate deaths that appear to be from unnatural causes or natural deaths that occur suddenly or unexpectedly.

https://www.irondaleontario.ca/articles/agnes-jamieson-ontarios-first-female-coroner-1950#:~:text=In%201950%2C%20Dr.,that%20occur%20suddenly%20or%20unexpectedly.

https://www.barrietoday.com/columns/remember-this/remember-this-lady-doc-the-agnes-larkin-jamieson-story-4-photos-3538558

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

"Luke has it in front, Paul has it behind and Mrs Molloy has it twice in the middle. What is it?"

Answer is— the letter L

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

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County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

These are tentative dates - depends on rental of community centres.
Please be sure to check the appropriate website and/or Facebook pages to get up to date information

2025	Unless otherwise noted - Tickets available online at www.IrondaleOntario.ca or call/text 705-457-8438
Apr 12	**Victorian Hat Workshop**— Melissa Stephens (costume designer for Highlands Summer Festival Theatre) guides us as we make our own fancy hat for the future tea parties we attend. Registration is limited. $10 per person. Supply list will be sent. Refreshments served. 2 to 4pm at the Irondale church.
Apr 26	**Victorian Tea —** Fancy sandwiches, homemade scones, delightful desserts. $25 per person You must preorder & pay for tickets. Held at the historic Irondale church property at 1019 Elm Rd. 11 am sitting.
May 10	**Mother's Day Dinner—**5:30 start. Sirloin meat pie, potatoes, vegetable, beverage & dessert. $25 per person. Order tickets by emailing historical@IrondaleOntario.ca or text 705-457-8438 Held at the Irondale Community Centre.
May 20	**Paul Morissette** - history of hockey in the Haliburton Highlands from the 1890's to 1950. He is still searching for hockey related photos of the early pre 1930 era. This presentation takes place in Minden at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 7pm, part of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group's regular meeting. All are welcome
June 1	Sunday Services begin. 10am All are welcome, come as you are. Irondale Community Church Refreshments and conversation after the service.
June 7	**Spring Fling** 11am - 3pm Irondale Church property NO ADMISSION CHARGED Vendors, displays, tours, BBQ, Bake Sale We are looking for people to sell their crafts and/or unwanted items. Call/text 705-457-8438 with your ideas

These three little guys enjoyed their breakfast with Gramma Beth; happy to have their picture in this newsletter. See pg 5 for more pictures

Our work is often like watching an iceberg. People only see what is visible.
Beneath the surface, day in and day out,
we are consistently doing something to save Irondale's history.